

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W
-----121372 261911Z /43

O 261904Z AUG 78 ZFF-6
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3009
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03327

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, ZA, SW
SUBJECT: SAG ASSURANCES TO MCHENRY THAT ZAMBIAN INCURSION
ENDED

REF: LUSAKA 3006

1. AMB MCHENRY MET WITH EKSTEEN SATURDAY MORNING TO
INFORM HIM OF OUR EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO NOW CANCELLED
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON CAPRIVI INCIDENT. WE ALSO
SHARED SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH CHONA (REFTEL),
PARTICULARLY ZAMBIAN APPEAL FOR SOUTH AFRICAN RESTRAINT.
EKSTEEN BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF THAT A SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON CAPRIVI WAS OFF -- AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT
-- AND UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NOW NECESSARY FOR SOUTH
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AFRICA TO ACT. HE STATED THAT SAG OFFICIALS WERE AWAY
AT STATE FUNERAL BUT THAT HE WOULD CONTACT PIK BOTHA
AT MID-DAY.

2. EKSTEEN CALLED AGAIN ON MCHENRY AT 1:30 PM AT USUN
AND RELAYED THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE. "I HAVE BEEN INFORMED
THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE COMPLETED

THEIR ACTION AGAINST SWAPO FOLLOWING SWAPO'S TREACHEROUS ATTACK ON KATIMA MULILO ON 23 AUGUST 1978 AND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ACCORDINGLY BEEN WITHDRAWN." END QUOTE.

3. SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY, EKSTEEN THEN STATED THAT BOTHA HAD ASKED HIM TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING ORAL TALKING POINTS WHICH EKSTEEN LEFT IN WRITING:

QUOTE. "I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STANDS BY THE INFORMATION I CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL YESTERDAY, AS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT S/12822.

"ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT I WANT TO STRESS TO THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, THAT THIS WHOLE TRAGIC INCIDENT HAS ADDED TO OUR SUSPICION THAT SWAPO DOES NOT DESIRE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND THAT IT WANTS TO FOLLOW ANGOLA'S EXAMPLE.

"I THEREFORE APPEAL TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND TO THOSE OF THE OTHER FOUR WESTERN MEMBERS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SEE TO IT THAT SWAPO CEASE ITS UNPROVOKED AND SENSELESS KILLING OF PEOPLE. IF NOT, THE PROSPECTS FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUATION OF THE WHOLE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WOULD APPEAR TO BE EXTREMELY REMOTE.

"THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW COMPLAINING BUT IT IS THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHICH ALLOWED SWAPO TERRORISTS TO OPERATE FROM ITS SOIL. WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE POSITION IN THE PAST, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO HAVE TAKEN STEPS AS A NEIGHBOURING STATE TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE NOT VIOLATED, PARTICULARLY, THE ONE REGARDING THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

"WHY DOES THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO ALLOW SWAPO TO ATTACK SOUTH WEST AFRICA FROM ZAMBIAN SOIL? THIS WHOLE INCIDENT HAS UNDERMINED THE SUCCESS OF ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

"THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OBJECTS MOST STRONGLY THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOWS SWAPO TERRORISTS TO OPERATE FROM ITS TERRITORY AND TRUSTS THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO FURTHER ATTACKS OCCUR AGAINST SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND

ITS PEOPLE FROM ZAMBIAN SOIL. ALL THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA DESIRE PEACE. ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT OBJECTIVE IS FRUSTRATED WHEN GOVERNMENTS ALLOW TERRORISTS TO OPERATE FROM THEIR TERRITORIES AGAINST NEIGHBOURING STATES."
END QUOTE.

4. AFTER HEARING EKSTEEN, AMB MCHENRY STATED THAT HE DID NOT CARE TO GET INTO PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATE ON THE ORIGINS OF THE PROBLEM. THE IMPORTANT POINT WAS TO GET ON WITH A SETTLEMENT AND TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THE INTERIM. WE HAD SHARED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS THE

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SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ZAMBIANS AND THEREFORE SOUTH AFRICA WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE ZAMBIANS TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. AMB MCHENRY ADDED THAT WE HOPED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT IN PARA TWO ABOVE COULD BE RELIED UPON SINCE WE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM THE ZAMBIANS THAT SOLE'S ASSURANCES TO MOOSE AUGUST 24 TURNED OUT TO HAVE BEEN INACCURATE.

5. AMB MCHENRY ASKED EKSTEEN WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA INTENDED TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT, NOTING THAT THE

IMPORTANT THING WAS FOR THE ZAMBIANS TO BE CONVINCED THAT
ALL ACTIONS WERE ENDED. EKSTEEN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW
IF A PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE BUT UNDERTOOK TO
INQUIRE.

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6. FOR LUSAKA: WE SUGGEST EMBASSY INFORM GOZ AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE OF SAG ASSURANCE GIVEN PARA 2 ABOVE. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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